

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A catheter assembly comprising:

a wetting fluid (150; 250; 350; 450; 650; 750); and

a catheter (130; 230; 330; 430; 630; 730) having on its surface, on at least an insertable part thereof, a hydrophilic surface layer providing low-friction surface character of the catheter by treatment with said wetting fluid; and a receptacle (120; 220; 320; 420; 620; 720) enclosing at least the insertable part of the ~~catheter~~, catheter,

wherein the assembly presents a storage state in which the wetting fluid is kept separated from the hydrophilic surface layer of the catheter, and an activation state in which the wetting fluid is brought into contact with said hydrophilic surface layer before an intended use of the catheter, and

~~e-h-a-r-a-c-t-e-r-i-z-e-d-in-that~~ wherein the wetting fluid (150; 250; 350; 450; 650; 750), in the storage state, comprises at least one dissolved osmolality-increasing compound, wherein the total concentration of the dissolved osmolality-increasing compound(s) exceeds 600 mOsm/dm³.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The catheter assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the total concentration of the osmolality-increasing compound(s) in the wetting fluid (150; 250; 350; 450; 650; 750) exceeds 700 mOsm/dm³, ~~and preferably exceeds 800 mOsm/dm³~~.

5. (Currently Amended) The catheter assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the total concentration of the osmolality-increasing compound(s) in the wetting fluid (~~150; 250; 350; 450; 650; 750~~) is in the range of 850 to 950 mOsm/dm³, ~~and preferably about 900 mOsm/dm³.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The catheter assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the total concentration of the osmolality-increasing compound(s) in the wetting fluid (~~150; 250; 350; 450; 650; 750~~) is greater than 600 mOsm/dm³s and less than 1500 mOsm/dm³.

7. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein said osmolality-increasing compound(s) is/are selected from the group consisting of urea, amino acids, mono and disaccharides, sugar alcohols, and non-toxic organic and inorganic salts or acids, polypeptides and mixtures thereof.

8. (Original) The catheter assembly as claimed in claim 7, wherein said osmolality-increasing compound(s) is/are selected from the group consisting of glucose, sorbitol, sodium chloride, sodium citrate, sodium benzoate, calcium chloride, potassium chloride, potassium iodide and potassium nitrate.

9. (Currently Amended) The catheter assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the said wetting fluid (~~150; 250; 350; 450; 650; 750~~) further comprises a polymer.

10. (Currently Amended) The catheter assembly as claimed in claim 9, wherein the polymer is a hydrophilic polymer, ~~and preferably the same type of hydrophilic polymer as in the hydrophilic coating of the catheter.~~

11. (Currently Amended) The catheter assembly as claimed in claim 9, wherein the amount of polymer in the wetting fluid is in the range 0-20% of weight, ~~and most preferably in the range 5-15%, and typically about 10%.~~

12. (Currently Amended) The catheter assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the wetting fluid ~~(150; 250; 350; 450; 650; 750)~~ is a water-based liquid.

13. (Currently Amended) The catheter assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the catheter is a urinary catheter ~~(130; 230; 330; 430; 630; 730)~~ intended is adapted for intermittent use.

14. (Currently Amended) The catheter assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein said wetting receptacle ~~(120; 420; 720)~~ encloses the entire catheter ~~(130; 430; 730)~~.

15. (Currently Amended) The catheter assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein said receptacle ~~(220; 420; 620; 720)~~ entirely encloses said wetting fluid.

16. (Currently Amended) The catheter assembly as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a separate wetting fluid container, which encloses said wetting fluid ~~(150; 250; 350; 450; 650; 750)~~ and which forms part of said catheter assembly.

17-22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a catheter assembly, comprising:
providing a receptacle ~~(120; 220; 320; 420; 620; 720)~~;
providing a hydrophilic catheter ~~(130; 230; 330; 430; 630; 730)~~;
providing a wetting fluid ~~(150; 250; 350; 450; 650; 750)~~;
arranging at least an insertable part of the catheter in the receptacle ~~(120; 220; 320; 420; 620; 720)~~ and arranging said wetting fluid ~~(150; 250; 350; 450; 650; 750)~~ as a part of said catheter assembly;

wherein the assembly presents a storage state in which the wetting fluid is kept separated from the hydrophilic surface layer of the catheter, and an activation state in which the wetting fluid is brought into contact with said hydrophilic surface layer before an intended use of the catheter,

said wetting fluid ~~(150; 250; 350; 450; 650; 750)~~ comprising at least one dissolved osmolality-increasing compound, the total concentration of the osmolality-increasing compound(s) exceeding 600 mOsm/dm³.

24. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the total concentration of the osmolality-increasing compound(s) in the wetting fluid (~~150; 250; 350; 450; 650; 750~~) exceeds 700 mOsm/dm³, ~~and preferably exceeds 800 mOsm/dm³.~~

25. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the total concentration of the osmolality-increasing compound(s) in the wetting fluid (~~150; 250; 350; 450; 650; 750~~) is in the range of 850 to 950 mOsm/dm³, ~~and preferably about 900 mOsm/dm³.~~

26. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the total concentration of the osmolality-increasing compound(s) in the wetting fluid (~~150; 250; 350; 450; 650; 750~~) is greater than 600 mOsm/dm³ and less than 1500 mOsm/dm³.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the osmolality-increasing compound is selected from the group consisting of urea, amino acids, mono and disaccharides, sugar alcohols, and non-toxic organic and inorganic salts or acids, polypeptides and mixtures thereof.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the wetting fluid (~~150; 250; 350; 450; 650; 750~~) is a water-based liquid.

29-35. (Canceled)

36. (New) The catheter assembly as claimed in claim 4, wherein the total concentration of the osmolality-increasing compound(s) in the wetting fluid exceeds 800 mOsm/dm³.

37. (New) The catheter assembly as claimed in claim 5, wherein the total concentration of the osmolality-increasing compound(s) in the wetting fluid is 900 mOsm/dm³.

38. (New) The method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the total concentration of the osmolality-increasing compound(s) in the wetting fluid exceeds 800 mOsm/dm³.

39. (New) The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the total concentration of the osmolality-increasing compound(s) in the wetting fluid is about 900 mOsm/dm³.

40. (New) The catheter assembly as claimed in claim 10, wherein the polymer is the same type of hydrophilic polymer as in the hydrophilic surface layer of the catheter.

41. (New) The catheter assembly as claimed in claim 11, wherein the amount of polymer in the wetting fluid is in the range 5-15% by weight.

42. (New) The catheter assembly as claimed in claim 11, wherein the amount of polymer in the wetting fluid is about 10%.